



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/662,077	09/12/2003	Eldon L. Decker	1887A1	9797
7590 12/12/2007 PPG INDUSTRIES, INC. Intellectual Property Department One PPG Place Pittsburgh, PA 15272			EXAMINER AHMED, SHEEBA	
			ART UNIT 1794	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 12/12/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/662,077

Applicant(s)

DECKER ET AL.

Examiner

Sheeba Ahmed

Art Unit

1794

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 October 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 3-6, 8, 12, 14, 15 and 27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 3-6, 8, 12, 14, 15, and 27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Amendments to claims 1, 3-6, 8, 12, 14, 15, and 27 are entered in the above-identified application. Claims 2, 7, 9-11, 13, 16-26, and 28-44 are canceled. **Claims 1, 3-6, 8, 12, 14, 15, and 27 are pending.**

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1, 3-6, 8, 12, 14, 15, and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Babler (US 5,997,627).

Babler discloses a method of using pigment compositions to prepare coating compositions which yield thin film finishes having a 3D appearance (col. 1, lines 9-12). The pigment compositions comprise organic fillers and colored pigments and suitable colored pigments include organic pigments listed in col. 2, lines 36-45 and include azo pigments. The pigment composition is prepared by mixing the pigment with the filler and applying the coating composition to a substrate to yield a thin film. The coating composition is generally heat curable and includes a binder (Col. 3, lines 60-66 and Col. 4, lines 1-20). The colored pigments are preferably smaller than 0.1 microns (Column 4, lines 3-65). The coatings can be provided with one or more layers of clear or additional

effect coating. The heat curable acrylic/melamine resin combination coatings are used as binders for the clear coating. The clear coatings may also contain polymer soluble dyes such as phthalocyanine dyes, metal complexes of azo dyes and fluorescent dyes (Column 6, lines 37-47). The pigment composition layer taught by Babler is the same as the lower layer of the instantly claimed invention (hence inherently meeting the limitation that the coating layer has a color value of L^* less than 40) and the clear layers taught by Babler are the same as the upper layer of the instantly claimed invention. With regards to the limitation that the colorants are selected from dyes and pigments that will not scatter light that masks fluorescent light, the Examiner takes the position that such a property limitation is inherently met by the composition taught by Babler et al. given that the chemical composition of the materials is identical. All limitations of claims 1, 3-6, 8, 12, 14, 15, and 27 are either disclosed or inherent in the above reference.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments filed on October 11, 2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicants traverse the rejection of claims 1, 3-6, 8, 12, 14, 15, and 27 as it applies to the amended claims and submit that Babler does not disclose pigments that will not scatter light and mask the fluorescent light being emitted.

However, as pointed out above, the Examiner takes the position that such a property limitation is inherently met by the composition taught by Babler et al. given that the chemical composition of the materials is identical. Hence, the above rejection applies to the amended claims.

Conclusion

4. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.


5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sheeba Ahmed whose telephone number is (571)272-1504. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 9am to 5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rena Dye can be reached on (571)272-3186. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Application/Control Number:
10/662,077
Art Unit: 1794

Page 5

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Sheeba Ahmed
December 9, 2007